

DECISION SUMMARY



Date considered: 16 October 2023

Sentence

1. The offender is serving an indeterminate sentence, of which the minimum term in custody was 18 years.

Test for release

2. Before it could direct release, the panel had to be satisfied that it is no longer necessary for the protection of the public that the offender should be confined.

Decision

3. The panel was satisfied on this matter, and directed release subject to licence conditions.

Reasons for decision

4. In reaching its decision, the panel considered:
 - a) the circumstances of the index offence, and any offending history;
 - b) formal risk assessments prepared on the offender;
 - c) the offender's conduct since sentence, and intentions if released;
 - d) all relevant information in the dossier; and
 - e) the evidence heard at the hearing.
5. The offender murdered their partner and received a life sentence with a lengthy punishment part. The punishment part of their sentence ended in 2022. At the offender's last review, the Board considered that they should undertake more testing by way of home leaves from prison to demonstrate their suitability for release on life licence. To date, the offender has undertaken numerous home leaves, has not incurred any adverse circumstance reports and there are no concerns.
6. The offender has a good relationship with their social workers. Both social workers recommend the offender's release on licence due to their progress in custody and willingness to engage with professionals. The panel agreed that the evidence indicates that the offender will work with their social workers and engage fully with any necessary offence focused work in the community.
7. The panel considered that the offender has been adequately tested in the community and there are no concerns. It therefore considered that it is no longer necessary for the protection of the public that the offender remain confined and it released them on licence conditions.
8. The licence conditions intimated are lawful, necessary and proportionate to manage the risk which the offender presents.